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# AMERICAN SOCIALIST

MARCH LEAFLET  
It Deals With  
The War Crisis  
Rush In Your  
ORDERS NOW!

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304

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## Do You Want War?

President Wilson and his cabinet have decided that it is best for this Government to recognize that it is in a state of war with Germany and he has called the congress to meet April 2nd for the purpose of voting a debt of hundreds of millions in bonds to carry on endless military activities.

The metropolitan papers say that the President has come to this momentous decision because of "the tremendous appeal from the country for revenge for Germany's killing of American citizens and destruction of American property in contravention of all international law."

Are you one of those who have urged the President to this action? If not who of your neighbors are? Let us inquire and find out for certain if there has in reality been such a "tremendous appeal" from the country for this warlike action, or is it the misrepresentation in the name of the country of a few only who have free access to the press and pretend to speak for you and your neighbor when you and he have never authorized them so to speak. When you really do not desire war. When you believe that the murderous methods of war for the purpose of revenge are in contravention of all the laws of God and just men, no matter what so-called international law may say.

Ask yourself the question fellow-citizen, "if I have not urged the President to this act of war, nor my neighbors, who has?"

Is it possible that a small number of ambitious, self-seeking men, to gratify their vain ambition and lust for power are intriguing and scheming in conjunction with men drunk with the lust for gold from war contracts, are the real promoters of this war?

If this Government goes to war with Germany let us all know the truth of the causes. Let us not be deceived by false representations of patriotism. If the man with the gun and the flag is a patriot, ask yourself if the man in overalls who feeds and supplies him is not also a patriot. In fact, in the true sense of the word, more of a patriot than the one dressed in gilded uniform!

Let us not deceive ourselves, the citizens who have been killed, and whose property has been destroyed were accessories with the bellicerents of Europe. They were helping one side against the other, and they were doing it for the most mercenary of reasons,—money.

Love of mankind, love of future ideals, love of liberty, in the sense of raising the living conditions of mankind, has nothing to do with their business—it was purely a question of dollars and cents.

Standing on their rights to make profits and pile up fortunes out of the blood of those who are killed in battle as well as those who are exploited and robbed out of the greater part of the wealth produced by the workers in the factories and upon the fields, the small number who pretend to represent you because you have been silent are going to plunge the hundred million people of this nation into all the horrors of war.

All for profits.—All for money.—And in order to dupe you so that you will become a willing pawn to fight their battles, a pliant tool to do their bidding, an echoing voice to repeat their falsehoods they cloak their actions with the hypocritical plea of God, Humanity and Patriotism.

Fellow citizen, awaken! You have already delayed too long. Write every newspaper editor whose paper you subscribe for or if possible see him in person. Write your senator and congressman. Organize mass meetings or help advertise and attend them.

The only way of escape is to recognize that peaceful, productive labor is the only true patriotism. That all rights upon the seas or elsewhere must be based upon efforts to produce and exchange free from every element of profit in the form of exploitation. That the only right we as a nation can unite to guarantee is the right to do constructive, creative, useful work for ourself and fellow-man and that we cannot fight to protect anyone in the carrying on of a trade or commerce that has destruction and death as its basis.

The only organization that now stands upon this foundation of true peace is the Socialist Party of your state and nation. It is trying by every means within its power to stay this insane sweep into the horrors of military murder. They are not as strong in numbers as they should be to meet successfully this crisis. They need your help and that of your neighbor. Why have you not gotten into communication with them? Or called upon them? Or subscribed for their papers? Or attended their meetings?

Now is the time. Haste!

## Prepare For Convention.

Every local of the Socialist Party in the nation should contribute its share to the success of the national emergency convention which opens in St. Louis, Saturday, April 7.

This can be done by seriously and intelligently discussing the big questions that are to come before this gathering and by filing your decisions with the delegates from your state.

You can help by rushing in your contribution to defray the expenses of the convention so that there will be no deficit when the time comes for carrying into action the decisions reached.

All eyes and all minds on the convention!

## American People Do Not Want War, Declares Debs

Terre Haute, Ind.—"Wendell Phillips said at the time the United States government was in control of chattel slavery that he wanted two words inscribed upon his tomb as his epitaph. These two words were 'traitor' and 'infidel'—traitor to a government which protected human slavery, and infidel to a church which sanctioned the crime," said Eugene V. Debs, just home from an eastern lecture tour. He was referring to recent charges of "traitor" that had been made against him over the United States situation with regard to Germany.

"My position is just the same as that of Wendell Phillips," Debs said. "The only difference is that a different power is now in control of the United States."

Mr. Debs spoke at length on the policy of the United States toward Germany, giving his personal version rather than that of the Socialist party. He preferred to do this inasmuch as the Socialists are planning to hold a convention in St. Louis shortly, at which time their stand in the present crisis will be decided upon.

"The American people do not want war," he declared vehemently, "and I dare Wall street to submit the matter of war to a vote of the people. If the people have no voice in this matter of such vital importance to themselves, then our country is a despotism."

"We are hearing much about the insults to the American flag these days and about American persons being killed in the danger zone. Six hundred thousand men and women are being murdered and mutilated in the industries of the United States yearly in ways that are preventable. They are meeting such deaths under the American flag. Do we hear any protest against these deaths? Out at Ludlow, pregnant women were shot and little children roasted under the American flag. In Cabin Creek, West Virginia, an armored train with a United States flag floating over it, went up into the mining towns and shot up the camps at midnight. Why are such murderous acts as these not an insult to the flag?

"Our plutocracy has loaned three billion dollars to the allies and made hundreds of millions of dollars feeding the war in Europe while starving its own people. When Senator LaFollette introduced an amendment to the naval bill providing that the navy should not be sent to collect Morgan's debt in Europe, the bill was overwhelmingly defeated.

"The present grave international situation was developed absolutely by the capitalist government of the United States in utter and criminal disregard for the peace and welfare of the people. And if the people of the United States and the people of Germany are wise, and even have ordinary sense, they will allow the class in control of the governments of the two countries to fight the battles and furnish the corpses as well as to declare the war."

Mr. Debs asked what good it would do the flag or the honor of the country to have a million American working men slaughtered, a million families bereaved and a million homes made desolate.

"Anybody that talks war and slatterns now is a patriot," he said. "Any man who talks peace and good will is a traitor. This is due to a frenzy of bogus patriotism in which the American people have been lashed by a prostituted press."

Meanwhile, what has Woodrow Wilson done to see to it that the nation is prepared to feed itself?

## What Are They Made Of?

By JOHN M. WORK.

WHEN one stands still and watches the human panorama, he cannot help marveling at the apparent heartlessness of the majority of the people.

All about them is poverty and suffering. People are dying of slow starvation. Men, women and children are undergoing every cruel hardship that one can imagine. Children's bodies are hauled to the cemetery by the hundreds, because they were born to poverty-stricken parents. Girls are driven into the brothels because they can find no other way to earn a living wage. In many thousands of instances the heart-breaking struggle causes the brain to reel into insanity. In thousands of other instances escape is sought thru the door of suicide. In thousands of still other instances, crime is resorted to in order to secure the necessities of life.

\* \* \* \*

THE MOST casual glimpse reveals these horrors. A closer examination would reveal many others.

Yet, the majority of the people go their way heedless of it all. Not that I expect them to turn aside in each instance and endeavor to bring about better conditions for the individual. It would be impossible.

If they responded in any more than a miserly manner to the numerous calls for help, they and their own dependents would go hungry.

But they could at least vote for a system that would abolish all these horrors.

At each election day they have the opportunity to do so.

But, more than nine-tenths of them vote for all of these horrors to continue.

What can such people be made of? Are they utterly and hopelessly hard-hearted?

\* \* \* \*

NO IT is because they do not know. That is, they do not know that there is any way to abolish these horrors. They think these tragedies are an inevitable part of human life, and they go along with such show of boldness as they can summon, in an effort to make their own get-a-way from the region of these abysses.

The absolutely essential thing therefore, is to educate them to the truth.

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Get into the Socialist movement and help to let them know the truth, in order that these horrors may be abolished and a free and happy social system established.

## People Raise Food Cry As War Clouds Grow Blacker

By LUCIEN SAINT.

WASHINGTON.—FOOD PREPAREDNESS FIRST!

On the verge of a war that is none of their own making, the American people are suffering from the same evil which has caused war-bound Russia to break into revolution—high prices of foodstuffs and a faulty distribution system.

War or no war, this is the time for the people to insist that their national government grapple with the question of FOOD PREPAREDNESS. The people are hungry and their health and happiness is being wasted because, in the midst of plenty, surrounded with heaps of grains and meats, they cannot buy wherewith to fill their stomachs.

Woodrow Wilson has given the nation some military and naval preparedness—millions of dollars worth of it, more of it than the nation ever dreamed was possible or necessary. Within a few months we shall have a navy comparable with the biggest in the world, and an army comparable with the dreams of our jingo statesmen—adequate at least, for purely defensive purposes.

Meanwhile, what has Woodrow Wilson done to see to it that the nation is prepared to feed itself?

### People Eat Little.

Tons of exports of grains and foods are daily being taken from our ports to starving and fighting Europe. Our storage warehouses contain more tons of foods which shall be sold later to the highest bidder, no matter whether the people here starve as they watch the long trains of bursting freight cars rumble by to the seaboard. Our rich are eating well and plentifully—eggs, meats, breads, fruits, vegetables. Our poor—which is to say, we the people—are eating little because we can not purchase that which we would like to eat. We do not eat eggs, and we eat beans such as are fed to cattle instead of meat. Our agricultural experts tell us to go eat beans—like the King of France who told his subjects to go eat grass and thus fill their bellies.

Food Need Started Revolution.

Russia went into revolution because an old government failed to get the people food.

England has verged on revolution for the same reason. Germany may revolt before this article is printed—because she can not feed her people. The lesson of current history is clear and plain. The people are watching the President and the Congress which is soon to come together to vote more extraordinary funds for the prosecution of this eleventh-hour war.

Write FOOD PREPAREDNESS FIRST on your bulletin boards and in your papers. Food preparedness is the only kind of preparedness that will be of any permanent value to the working people of this or any other nation.

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## Split On War Question

By JULIAN PIERCE.

The conflict between the pro-war majority and the anti-war minority of the Social Democratic party of Germany has ended in a split after two and one-half years of struggle.

The anti-war Social Democratic group in the Reichstag, in an independent organization called the "Social Democratic Union of Labor", has issued a manifesto indicting the official Socialist majority in and out of the Reichstag for its support of the German Government's war policy.

The manifesto closes with an appeal to the anti-war Socialists of Germany to participate in a national conference to take the necessary steps to organize nationally the anti-war forces in order to "work for the establishment of the Social Democratic movement and to realize the Socialist program."

The appeal is signed by Haase, Lebedour and Voghter, in the name of the Reichstag anti-war Socialist group.

## Urges Nationwide Organization.

The manifesto declares that a nationwide organization of the anti-war Socialists is imperative in order to prevent the pro-war executive committee from securing complete control of the Social Democratic party.

"If the opposition does not act energetically," it is asserted, "the executive committee will crush one after another those against whom the committee would be powerless were the opposition definitely united to resist the executive committee's encroachments."

## Socialist Nationalism Indicted.

The executive committee is charged with having "adopted an anti-Socialist policy which has turned the official Social Democratic party into a Government Socialist Nationalist party, and with having fraternized with the capitalist parties, in the name of a party truce, to give its support to the objects of an imperialistic war."

The manifesto also declares that the executive committee has ruthlessly deprived the Socialists making up the anti-war minority of their rights as members of the Social Democratic party, and maintains that the committee had launched dual organizations throughout Germany whenever the minority was in legitimate control of the regular party organization.

## Executive Committee Caused Split.

The manifesto does not incriminate the rank and file of the Social Democratic party for the party's failure to live up to its anti-war traditions and teachings. On the contrary, the responsibility for the repudiation of the anti-war policy, as well as for the party split itself, is placed directly upon the executive committee.

"A dozen party functionaries charged with the administration of the national office," it is pointed out, "have arrogated to themselves, contrary to the party laws and regulations, the power to decree in accordance with their own good pleasure the exclusion from the deliberations of the party not only of individual comrades, but of entire organizations."

## Text Of Manifesto.

The complete text of the manifesto of the Social Democratic Union of Labor follows:

(The term "majority" includes the Socialist adherents of the German government's policy. "Minority" and "opposition" include those who oppose the government's policy. "Vorwaerts" is the official daily paper of the Social Democratic party.—Translator's note.)

## COMRADES:—

The time for decision has come. At the beginning of the war the majority executive committee of the Reichstag Socialists adopted an anti-Socialist policy. The development of that policy along its initial lines has turned the official Social Democratic party into a Government Socialist Nationalist party. The new policy was begun by voting for the war credits. It ended by voting for the budget.

## Supports Imperialistic War.

By its fraternization with the capitalist parties in the name of a party truce, the majority of the Reichstag Socialist group was led to give its support to the objects of an imperialistic war.

Constantly refusing the demand of the Socialist minority to compel the government to proclaim an offer of peace without annexation of territory, the effect of the action of the majority has been to prolong the war, and not as the majority now pretends, to shorten it.

The majority, moreover, tried to crush the growing strength of the opposition, when it demanded the right freely to express its views, by depriving it, in defiance of law and contrary to the decisions of the party congresses, of its prerogatives within the organization.

The majority thus forced the minority to organize itself into an independent group.

## Editors Discharged—Papers Seized.

The profound antagonism between the two Socialist parliamentary groups manifested itself later in the Reichstag in a permanent fashion on

## Trench Dreams

By WM. FRANCIS BARNARD  
(Author of *The Tongues Of Toil*)

In mud of blood he made his bed.  
To ease his tortured bones;  
His dead friend's coat lay neath his head  
To soften the hard stones;  
His ears heard for a slumber song  
Slow dying sobs and groans.

Yet soon he slept, and sleeping smiled,  
While all around him there  
The stench of death choked and defiled  
The damp and clinging air;  
And men watched for a night attack  
With the courage of despair.

Yes, still he laughed in happy sleep,  
By dreams borne to a land  
Where kindness bade the heart leap  
Where comrades gave the hand,  
And tasks seemed pleasanter than rest  
To many a singing band.

Springtide was running in his veins;  
Soft hours fell rich and slow;  
The paths lay stained with violet stains  
Where groups walked to and fro;  
And the air pulsed sweet with lilac bloom  
And the pear flower white as snow.

His dreams were thrilled with Maytime love  
Midst vales, and summits tall;  
The sky arched tender blue above,  
And he heard the waters call.  
Sitting with hope and happiness  
Till moonrise and dewfall.

Medals in honor of brave deeds  
Upon his breast shone bright;  
But an awful look stared from his eyes  
When they woke him for the fight.  
And he killed himself with his own hand  
In the cold grey morning light.

## A Socialist War Program

By A. M. SIMONS.

**A**DVANCING the date for the special session of Congress makes it almost certain that when the special national convention of the Socialist Party meets the United States will be formally at war with Germany. With the entrance of this nation into the Armageddon of capitalism the greater part of the world will be in the melting pot from which a new civilization will be cast.

Socialists, who, for half a century, have foreseen and foretold the possibility of such an end to the regime of exploitation, shall not now fail to play their part in the coming transformation. This convention must give us a plan of common action.

The first and fundamental demand of such a program must be that all the expenses of war be met by a direct tax upon incomes and the confiscation of capital. This is the economic foundation of the whole program. Millions of radicals and the ablest authorities on national financing will join with us to secure this object. If carried into effect it will either stop the war or expropriate private industry.

**N**EXT to this must come the demand that labor have a direct voice in the management of industry. In every industry operated by the government or for government use labor must be represented upon the directing body. In so far as these demands are carried into effect we shall have proceeded toward the democratization of industry.

We must oppose all unnecessary censorship. Freedom of speech, press, communication and assemblage, when not used to betray military secrets, are the foundations of victory for a democratic people.

**O**fficials Blamed—Power Usurped.

Thus the split, accomplished because a dozen party functionaries charged with the management of the national office arrogated to themselves, contrary to party laws and regulations, the power to decree the exclusion, in accordance with their own good pleasure the exclusion, of not only individual comrades, but of entire organizations.

**D**ual Organizations.

In the same way in its fight against the organizations affiliated with the opposition, the executive committee violated more and more the principles of justice.

In different places the committee has stimulated the creation of dual organizations.

Nevertheless, the powers of the hands of the executive committee, because of its control over the central organization and the support given to the committee by a large number of comrades holding the highest positions, enables the committee to deprive our friends, within the structure of the organizations dominated by it, of the rights and privileges as accorded to them by the party organization.

**P**rotests Ineffective—Organization Necessary.

Protests are ineffective when we are confronted with the systematically created private machine of the executive committee.

From this time on the opposition must everywhere organize. For what the executive committee has done to the comrades of Potsdam, Berlin, Saxony, and other localities, will be repeated throughout Germany.

If the opposition does not act energetically the executive committee will obtain control of the Social Democratic party. The committee will crush in succession those against whom it would be powerless were the opposition definitely united to resist the committee's encroachments.

It is now a duty of solidarity, therefore, for all the comrades loyal to our principles to organize themselves in our party to work unitedly to re-establish the vitality of the Socialist movement and to realize the Social Democratic program as well as the decisions of the party congresses and of the international Socialist congresses.

**O**pposition Conference Called.

In accord with a large number of comrades of the several parties in Germany, we therefore invite all organizations and members of the Social Democratic party who are disposed to work with the Social Democratic Union of Labor to participate in a conference which will take the necessary steps to organize the opposition. To this end we urge the local organizations which have hitherto stood with the opposition, or who may take such a position in the future, to communicate with the undersigned.

In those districts where the opposition comrades have been deprived of their rights of freedom of speech by decisions of the local district organizations, thru instigations emanating from the executive committee, we expect them to immediately establish their own organization, and in this way inform us of their adhesion to our movement.

Detailed information regarding the time and place of the conference will be furnished shortly. Nevertheless, we urge you to complete the preliminary work before the middle of March.

And now to the work with vigor. Not a day should be lost.

Greetings to all Social Democrats.

HAASE, LEDEBOUR, VOGHTER.

For the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Union of Labor of the Reichstag.

Send communications to E. Voghter, deputy in the Reichstag.

## IF YOU DO NOT GET YOUR PAPER, "KICK"

If The American Socialist is not delivered regularly to your home send us a post card at once giving the nature of your complaint together with your name and address. We must have your co-operation to insure regular delivery. Our aim is to satisfy our subscribers.

shall find ourselves supported by millions in other nations, both friend and foe.

Such a program would arouse, not only every Socialist to enthusiastic revolt, but would bring to us millions who now have no part in our work. It is a truly Socialist program. It places the Socialist Party where it belongs, at the apex of the forces marching toward the coming society.

## A Necessary Preliminary.

From The Milwaukee Leader.

In April the voters of Milwaukee will be called upon to elect members of the school board and judges of the civil and circuit courts.

There is no election in which the interests of the ordinary citizen are more vitally affected than the school election. Yet the election of school directors, as is the election of judges, too often is deemed by the average voter to be of no consequence. He seems to think that unless there shall be a large number of candidates pulling him this way or that way and shouting in his ears and urging him to vote for them the election can not be of concern to him.

It is unfortunately true that a large vote is frequently dependent upon the number of candidates in the field, the salaries of the offices which they seek and the stimulation given to their appeals by the public treasury, the spouting of campaign orators and the excitement created by the newspapers. Under such conditions, the "fight" grows hot and the voter who is quite human is attracted precisely as he is attracted to a dog fight or a fire. Once he is attracted to the fray his interest is excited. He joins in the melee to vindicate his principles or to help his favorite candidate—candidates who have ingratiated themselves in his favor, either with handshaking and smiles or 5 cent cigars or liquid libations.

School and judicial elections are not calculated to draw out a large vote. Candidates for school directors seldom make personal appeal to the voters. The office of school director is largely honorary. No one wants the office for the salary. No practical politician would seek the office "for what there is in it." When candidates of that type appear, as has been the case when "slates" have been made up by the Holy Alliance to "beat the Socialists," they have sought office to help hamstring the schools as a religious duty—precisely as they would walk a day with peas in their shoes to do penance.

There is no office more intimately related to the masses of the people than the office of school director. The school directors have control of public education. The public schools directly concern every family. Even the parents who send their children to private schools are dependent upon the standard maintained in the public schools to maintain higher standards in the private schools. Lower the educational standards of the public schools and to that extent the incentive to higher standards in the private schools would be lessened. The church schools are what the public schools make them. The citizen who is led to attack the public schools in response to religious prejudice, if he but knew, is his children's worst enemy.

The "best citizens" naturally enough are well pleased when the mass of the voters give no heed to judicial elections. It enables them to place their "friendly judges" on the bench and keep them there. It "takes the judiciary out of politics"—that is, out of the hands of the workers who subsequently may be enjoined to keep off the streets or exercise other constitutional rights in event they should object to lower wages or demand a shorter work day.

It will be necessary, if the school and judicial elections shall not go by default to the Manufacturers and Munitions Makers' association, to create more or less disturbance between now and election. More or less shouting will have to be done. Someone will have to get out on the streets and beat a drum and draw a crowd. It can't be done in a nice, quiet, philosophical way. It will have to be carried on like a neutral argument over the war.

Then if the noise shall become loud enough, if the disturbance shall assume proportions large enough to disturb the slumbers of citizens who feel that all is well and God rules in His high heaven, a fairly heavy vote may be polled and Milwaukee once more "disgraced" by public officials whose policies reflect a progressive and enlightened civic consciousness.

## FOR "TRUE AMERICANISM" AT TWO HARBORS, MINNESOTA.

The Two Harbors, Minn., Socialist party, which has controlled this city of 6,000 population for the last six years, has nominated candidates for the coming municipal election on a platform pledging loyalty to "true Americanism" and providing for the immediate construction of a modern filtration plant for the city water works and the continuation and extension of municipal ownership.

Such a world alliance has need of neither armies nor navies. It prepares the way to universal disarmament, and is powerful enough to force that disarmament upon any backward, barbarous nation. We have now an opportunity to make an effective demand that this shall truly be a war upon war, the last great war to abolish all the trumpery of war. In this demand also we

## Nobody Wants War—It Settles Nothing.

From The New Orleans Item.

Nothing is clearer than that the American people do not want the United States to enter the war. Even in the eastern cities where the overwhelming majority of the press is for war so strongly that all who think otherwise are denounced as traitors and pro-troops, anti-war mass meetings, attended by immense crowds, are nearly events.

The war itself is exerting a tremendous influence for peace. After 30 months of reading and hearing of it first hand from those who have been on the battle fronts, the American public is sobered. The jingo has lost much of the influence. Certainly, he can no longer make it appear that jingoism and patriotism are synonymous.

If the interests and the honor of this country were seriously menaced or openly attacked, and going to war with the power or coalition which was responsible were the only possible solution, there is not the least doubt that the nation as a whole would deliberately and determinedly go to war.

But going to war merely to exhibit resentment against wrongs which could not and would not thereby be righted, but might be aggravated, does not appeal to the American people. They have changed in the nineteen years since the Maine was destroyed in Havana harbor. They have lost their hysteria. The slow, brutal, exhausting conflict being staged in Europe has taken all the romance and glamor out of war. We are living in a sobered and darkened world.

War appeals to people no longer as a means of settlement of issue even among those who are engaging in it. Hall Caine, the famous English writer, says in The London Times:

"If it were possible to refer the present war, with full knowledge of the merits of the quarrel, to the twenty voiceless millions who are actually engaged in it, the battlefields would be silent and deserted within a week."

The war press, war financiers and war factories in this country grow furious over the damage this nation's commerce is sustaining, the damage certain of the nation's industries are sustaining, the losses some of this nation's shipping interests are sustaining, the losses some of our financial institutions are suffering by reason of highhanded and internationally illegal measures belligerents are taking regarding commerce on the world's highways—supposed to be open and free to the traffic of neutrals.

They ask how these losses are going to be stopped unless this nation goes to war? Are we going to submit to what is tantamount to a blockade of our ports and an embargo on our exports without going to war to assert our sovereign rights as a nation? Are we going to take orders from some European power as to how we may use the ocean? So run the questions in the war press.

But would war lift the embargo or make it worse by having it specifically declared against our exports and brought directly to our own coasts? Would going to war countervail any of the orders which eastern papers insist are insolent beyond tolerance, or would it only multiply such orders and inspire others even more intolerable?

And as to your going to war in order to check the losses our commerce, industries, shipping and finances may now suffer indirectly by our neighbor's fighting—that is the most absurd of all arguments advanced in favor of this nation's entering the world slaughter.

At a meeting of the Foreign Trade Council of the United States held the last week in January, a committee which had investigated conditions in Europe made its report. Exclusive of the destruction of shipping and cargoes destroyed at sea—which will run into hundreds of millions of dollars—this committee estimated the property loss in the various theatres of war to have been \$6,000,000,000 by the first of January, 1917. This loss can never be fully repaired, and that which can be made good will require generations of unremitting toil and grinding taxes to replace.

In the face of such a report it is nothing less than insanity to talk about this country's entering the war in order to prevent further losses at the hands of belligerents. As a neutral our property losses may reach into millions. As a belligerent they would run into billions.

There never has been a time in all the world when the futility of war as a solution of any thing—either honor or personal, national or property rights—was ever so clearly demonstrated as it is at this moment. That is why those influences in this country which are trying to shove the nation into war and arouse sentiment against the president's deliberation are getting nowhere.

The American masses do not want war—not because they are cowardly, but because they are brave; brave enough to overlook a great many things in war-crazed nations fighting for their very existence; brave enough to sacrifice a little pride instead of thousands of men and millions of property; brave enough to exercise self-restraint; brave enough to practice that Christianity which they have, as a people been professing.

## SEES EUROPE DEMOCRATIZED.

The Berlin Vorwaerts says that the Russian revolution indicates that one of the consequences of the war will be the far reaching democratization of Europe, according to a Berlin dispatch to Reuter's by way of Amsterdam.

The paper scores the pan-Germans for holding that after the war will be time enough to settle the question of direct suffrage in Prussia and adds:

"It will be a great and dangerous mistake if equal suffrage is not introduced into Prussia while the war is actually going on."

## MARSEILLAISE AND RED FLAGS GREET REVOLUTION

London, England.—Russian troops at field headquarters welcomed the revolution with a remarkable demonstration, according to Reuter's, quoting a telegram received at the capital from field headquarters. The telegram says that the troops marched in detachments to the public square, waving red flags and singing the Russian "Marseillaise"

## Shipacoff In Battle On Universal War Training

Assemblyman Shipacoff made a vigorous speech in the New York legislature recently opposing the resolution brought in by the committee on military affairs memorializing congress to establish a system of universal compulsory military training and compulsory service. He said:

Every one of you will admit that until recently, no member of the legislature would think of introducing such a resolution, much less would be its chances for adoption. It is therefore seem wise to examine these experiences, also the possible consequences of the establishment of such a system as is urged in this resolution, before we vote on its adoption.

### Greatest Of All Catastrophes.

For more than two-and-a-half years a war has been raging in Europe, so stupendous and far-reaching in its work of destruction and annihilation that it exceeds every natural and man-made catastrophe in the annals of human history. Villages, towns and whole cities have been wiped out of existence, and some of the most treasured works of art and the most cherished institutions have been reduced to ashes and dust. The number of dead, maimed and wounded reaches into the many millions. The strongest and most courageous of Europe's sons have been torn away in a beastly and most cruel manner from their homes, and their flesh is now rotting in their graves. The tear-stained faces of the widows will not be dried, the broken hearts of the mothers will not be mended, and the bitter cries of the orphans will not be hushed for many years to come. If this war continues much longer, the cream of European manhood will be completely destroyed, and only those physically deficient will be left to propagate the race and do the work of re-habilitation all that has been wiped out of existence.

Surely this is not a condition to wish on our country and people; and everything that can be done to keep us out of it, is an attempt worthy of the effort of the most patriotic citizens of this country.

### Blame The Germans.

The most vociferous of American jingoists lay the blame of the present war at the door of the German government. "That country," they say, "has been arming to its teeth for the last fifty years, and has turned its entire male population into an army of soldiers;" this, they say, "has made that country drunk with power" and brought about the present war.

If that is true, would you help bring about a state of affairs in this country where we too would become a nation of soldiers, so that we too may some day lose our balance and precipitate a great inter-continental war? There is nothing that creates a disregard for justice as much as a sense of power based on physical force. Would it not

be wiser then to hitch our chariot to a star of MORAL force?

### Arguments Without Weight.

1.

The introducer of the resolution invokes our approval of his measure by reminding us that as far back as 1792, the principles of compulsory military training and service were recognized by an act of Congress. This argument should have no weight with you, gentlemen, for the following reasons:

1.—There are many acts of

congress to which the author of the resolution himself would not subscribe, and rightly so, because Congressmen are usually human beings, just as apt to err in their judgment as other people.

2.—It was one of those acts which were never carried out, as there never was a time when every male citizen between 18 and 45 was compelled to have "a good musket, a fire-lock, a sufficient bayonet and belt, two spare flints, a knapsack, and a pouch with not less than 24 cartridges". Any private citizen of this state who would try to live up to this act of congress would be arrested under the Sullivan law.

3.—Since 1792 we have traveled considerably in the direction of human progress and have been compelled to discard great ideas that were proper in their own time.

### Resolution Contradictory.

Another paragraph of this resolution tells us that, "the existence of a Republican form of government is dependent upon the ability and WILLINGNESS of each citizen to render efficient personal service to his country." Has WILLINGNESS EVER been secured by force? Isn't there somewhat of a disagreement between the premise and the conclusion of this resolution?

The resolution also speaks of having under "CAREFUL CONSIDERATION" the Meyer bill, providing for compulsory military training of all citizens between 18 and 25. Didn't the committee kill the bill after CAREFUL CONSIDERATION?

The resolution finally endorses compulsory military training and service as American and democratic.

Does the mere naming of a system or an idea as American, make it so? Must not such a system have certain qualifications to conform with the principles of freedom loving Americans? Will the "bateful continental system of conscription, the last refuge of old world tyranny" become a praiseworthy institution when it will be transplanted on American soil?

Gentlemen, these are questions which you must answer to the satisfaction of your consciences before you would permit yourselves to a reversal of the history and traditions of this country.

Now what would be the effect of compulsory service on those who would be subjected to it? With you it is a theory, but not so with me. Having been brought up in Russia I know the spirit of the drafted soldier. Knowing that he has no choice in the matter, he feels crushed under a force with which

he has no sympathy, a force that robs his patriotic initiative all thru life. What is true of the Russian peasant would be a thousand times more true about the American young man who has had the benefits of a public school education. The same boy, who, attracted by the tones of martial music and the rhythmic tramp of marching feet, will too readily enlist for a war even without a cause, will rebel against his being FORCED into fighting, be the cause ever so great.

## A Burst Of Sunshine

By JOHN M. WORK.

OPTIMISM is one of the most desirable qualities in a Socialist. Of course all Socialists are optimists in a sense. That is, no person could be a Socialist if he did not have an optimistic belief that the social wrongs can be righted.

Nevertheless, there are some Socialists who are grouchy. They seem to be able to successfully hide their optimism. They are perpetually surrounded by an air of gloom. Every person who comes in contact with them feels this and shudders and gets out of their presence as soon as possible. When they do personal work for the cause, they do the cause more harm than good. When they join a local or branch, they keep the other members discouraged, if such a thing is possible.

\* \* \* \*

CHEER UP!

It is the duty of a Socialist to be a burst of sunshine to those about him. Of course it is hard to keep from making sarcastic replies to or remarks about those who show stupid ignorance on social questions.

Nevertheless, we should refrain. These people are not to blame for their ignorance. They are the product of their heredity and their environment. It is ours to be a different environment to them and thus change their views.

\* \* \* \*

THIS object cannot be accomplished by making stinging remarks and acquiring a reputation for disagreeableness. That sort of an attitude drives people away. It is to blame for the slow growth of the movement in many localities. It furnished the justification for George Bernard Shaw's exaggerated statement that Socialism is growing in spite of the Socialists.

There is a tendency to permit prevalent injustice to lead one to be come testy and grouchy.

But that will not do at all.

Testiness and grouchiness are negative qualities.

Negative qualities blast.

They blight.

They frost.

They kill.

They repel.

Repulsion injures the cause.

Attraction advances it.

that nothing less than a national embargo will relieve the situation.

\* \* \* \*

SUPPRESSION of such vital information may temporarily fool the public. In the long run it will be shown to be the same kind of wisdom as that of the Czar and the Russian bureaucracy, in dealing with their food trouble.

The situation is before us. We can meet it by sane and sufficient city, state and federal action, and so avoid riot and rebellion. Or we can ignore the situation, and play with death.

In his last message to congress the President of the United States used these words: "The people of the United States do not want war."

They do not. Is the president of the United States going to stand by the people? Or is he going to do the bidding of the munition makers and food speculators and ask the American people to give up their lives in the service of their worst enemies—these who are pushing the nation to the brink of hunger and starvation.

Can the violent uprising which the food kings are bringing, very legally, be headed off? Can labor compel a peaceful solution?

\* \* \* \*

Revolutions Leading To Socialism, Says Hearst

By WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST  
In The Chicago American.

I do not know how complete the Russian revolution is—whether it is merely a change from one autocrat to another or whether it is in reality a step toward popular government.

I imagine, however, that every disturbance of this kind makes more or less for popular government and that the Russian revolution is significant in that way.

Our papers have been the only ones in the country that have had any intelligent idea of the revolutionary conditions in Europe involved in this war. You have written about it in numerous editorials and I have written about it myself in several articles.

The revolutions are not going to be confined to Russia. Hollweg sees and says that there is a new freedom coming for Germany as well as for Russia.

France has long had her freedom, but will undoubtedly progress further in the direction of Socialism.

The revolution in England will be as complete as elsewhere, but probably not spectacular or violent. The English people accomplish their revolutions, as they do everything else they undertake, in a stolid, undemonstrative kind of a way, but they accomplish them just the same.

If Russia was an autocracy England was an aristocracy. Everything in England has been for the benefit of the ruling or aristocratic classes. These aristocratic classes had a trust—a control in politics, in land ownership, in tax exemption, in social recognition, in all kinds of benefits and privileges.

The mass of the people were reduced to the point of penury and were leaving the British Isles in droves in order to find elsewhere the opportunity which they could not secure at home.

The aristocratic trust operated according to the accepted methods of the trust and absorbed into the trust any man who showed exceptional ability or accumulated formidable wealth, enabling him, making him a knight or baron, and so aligning him and his influence and power with the aristocracy instead of with the people, from whom he came, and with whom he naturally should have been in sympathy.

Thus the aristocracy trust perpetuated its privileges and fortified its position. It rode the masses almost as cruelly as did the French aristocracy before the French Revolution.

I think the system will be destroyed, and probably has been destroyed. The people of England will never be content to go back to the conditions that prevailed before the war.

How much further the revolution will go is a question. If the war continues long enough and the people of the various countries become sufficiently resentful at their rulers I believe we will have revolutions of riot and revolutions of repudiation—revolutions which will set up new governments and refuse to be bound by the obligations which the old governments incurred.

That is a thing which Americans have to contemplate with some anxiety, and our papers have warned Americans not to place too much trust or invest too much money in the present governments of the European countries.

I think the administration at Washington did right when it warned American banks against investments of this kind, and I think the administration did wrong when, merely thruique because of Germany's unwillingness to comply with Washington's interpretation of international law, the banks were allowed to extend their investments in these perilous and precarious foreign countries.

There ought to be a revolution in Germany as well as in Russia and in England, and there probably will be.

\* \* \* \*

TO MAKE the future seem darker than it is, there is every evidence of a deliberate attempt on the part of the capitalist daily press to hide the news. Thus, in reporting the sessions of the Mayor of Philadelphia's Food Commissions the following important items were suppressed:

The evidence given by a "potato king" that half a dozen men in Philadelphia handle half the potatoes, and that a dozen men in Maine dictate prices to farmer and consumer for the best part of the crop of storage potatoes in the United States:

The evidence given by a State Dairy and Food Commissioner that legislators at Harrisburg offer an amendment to the storage house law which makes it easier for speculators to gouge the public.

The evidence of this Commissioner that representatives of foreign countries are buying up crop, meat and cannning supplies here with the result that this nation will face a most serious food crisis in the coming year, and the opinion of this Commissioner

that nothing less than a national embargo will relieve the situation.

## Foster Military Spirit In California University

By LUELLA TWINING.

Officers of the Military Department, assisted by the faculty of the University of California (second largest university in the United States) are doing everything possible to lash the students into a fury of military frenzy.

In nearly all class rooms (presided over by English, Russian, French professors), if an opportunity does not offer itself to the professor to express his hatred of the Germans and the necessity of shooting some civilization into those barbarians, as they call them, he makes that opportunity.

For instance Professor Lowenberg, Ph. D., pretending to lecture on philosophical subjects as applied to literature, in the discussion of what is worth living for and what is worth dying for, said,

"The hedonist says, 'what difference does it make what flag I live under. I want to eat, drink and be merry. That is all that matters to me.' The activist says 'Life helps the achievement of eternal principles. If life is in danger—give your life up.' What deserves to live more than the individual? Why, the nation."

I agreed with that I would give up my life to establish the Socialist Republic in our nation, to destroy child labor in our nation. But this was not what our philosopher had in mind.

While we were considering his argument, we were astounded to hear him begin a violent attack on the Germans. "To go to war to fight the Germans" to him meant the expression of an eternal principle.

Even Professors Differ.

Fortunately there are professors in the university who are not only advocates of peace but are active in its propaganda. Among these are Professors Stratton, Haworth, and Pope. Professor Pope has instituted a nationwide petition for peace.

But their peace notes are lost in the blantant shouts for war. The climax came when a meeting was held in Harmon Gymnasium to enroll recruits for a California unit in the American Ambulance Corps to work in France. Five thousand students packed the hall. Professor Barrows confined his talk to discussion of the Ambulance Corps but Professor Gayley and Mr. W. H. Crocker, probably the richest man in the state, turned it into an anti-German demonstration.

Mr. Crocker said, "Thank God that after these two and a half years we can at last express our opinions. Thank God we are not obliged to remain neutral." He launched into an attack on the Germans adding, however, that he is glad that the German-Americans have dropped the hyphen. He was mild compared with Professor Gayley, who was excited. Trembling with emotion, with eyes blazing, he shouted, "Thank God (like King George and the Kaiser they appealed to God) the time is come when we can speak our thoughts out."

\* \* \* There are three great democracies in this world, France, the United States and England. England is the greatest of them all. We get all our rights from England. She is our mother. If we had not had a German on the throne we would never have left England. (The students gasped.) After a moment the English sympathizers broke into an uproar of applause. The rest looked glum.)

Those of you who go abroad, like young Lafayettes, go not in the name of humanity alone. You go because you are in sympathy with the cause of France and the allied powers."

Then Professor Gayley sat down amidst vociferous applause from certain sections.

\* \* \* Fight for Your Ideas!

Respectable citizens when in a dispute do not shoot each other, but they allow the law to settle their differences. So also it is HOPED, will nations in a far greater degree than in the past, avoid war by resorting to arbitration.

Settling disputes, between nations thru arbitration instead of war, is an indication of a higher civilization.

## People Getting Wiser

People are growing wiser. During the past few months eggs have moved with startling rapidity along the upward price curve. Here and there a fortunate commission merchant or egg buyer would state with pride that he had cleaned up hundreds of thousands on his buying and selling of this life staple. The housewives in other cities protested to the authorities, demanding protection against the "egg trust". The egg dealers replied with the statement that there was a scarcity of the eggs, and that freight congestion rendered it impossible to supply the market. These and many equally unconvincing arguments were advanced to justify the price increase.

No one denied that the hens were laying about as usual. No one could prove that there was a particular shortage of eggs in any part of the country.

You will find the rest of this article in the April leaflet entitled, "The High Cost Of Living" by Scott Nearing.

Issued by the national office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago. Prices: 10 cents per 100; 75 cents per 1,000.

"Grant" The 8-Hour Day

By LUCIEN SAINT.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON.—Well, the railroads "granted" the eight hour day less than twelve hours before the Supreme Court decided that the eight hour day was constitutional. That was funny.

Mr. Dooley made the classic remark that the Supreme Court follows the election returns. This is true.

But the Supreme Court also sees which way the wind is going to blow. And a further observation from this end of the line:

The judges who voted against the laboring men and for the railroads are all well known railroad judges.

Also: Did the railroads know that the Supreme Court was going to decide as it did? Remember, the railroads gave in less than twelve hours before the noble body of jurists handed down their decree.

(This is written because the writer does not like the Supreme Court as an institution—noting personal.)

Let's have a Congressional investigation!

Respectable citizens when in a dispute do not shoot each other, but they allow the law to settle their differences. So also it is HOPED, will nations in a far greater degree than in the past, avoid war by resorting to arbitration.

Settling disputes, between nations thru arbitration instead of war, is an indication of a higher civilization.

## Socialists

## Organization Column.

NOTE.—We want the best brains in the Socialist movement to contribute ideas to this "Organization Column". We feel that the best organization ideas come from those who really do the work. The organization, rank and file of the membership who are always on the job. Let us hear from you. Send all communications to the Organization Column Editor, The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

## APPEAR TO GOOD ADVANTAGE.

—Two articles on organization could not have appeared to better advantage in the same column of the same issue than those of Comrades Deino and Harriman in The American Socialist.

The psychology of the former is a vital point in propaganda work and has an easily traceable economic source. Farmers who hire their farms are not so prone to the qualms which Comrade Deino describes. The renters, unions of the southwestern states which are in close touch with the Party prove this. It is notably the owning farmer who has misgivings about socialism. He has inherited or bought title to the land which he works. The land title has a capital value based on the net income from the property above the current wage of the farm labor employer or put into the place by the farmer. This capital value is a credit asset which the working farmer especially is chary of risking in political changes which might affect the value of titles. The farmer whose "farm is mortgaged from one end to the other" is in a position similar to that of the stock gambler who is betting on a margin in the hope of gaining full possession. He is more interested in winning than in perceiving how little he has to lose by a political change that would enable him to do much better as a wage earner or renter than he can as the owner of an equity. Not infrequently, however, he has put his surplus or his credit into fixed improvements instead of clearing his title and this puts him in a way to lose much thru a small default in case the speculative value of titles begins to shrink and banks to tighten up on that class of property. With a mortgage on the property the shrinkage might wipe out the equity. Property discussions do not get the farmer.

The farmers' market and supply problems are bringing them together into cooperative associations. These associations are being studied and fostered by the Department of Agriculture thru its office of Markets and Rural Organization. This office maintains a corps of investigators who devote all their time to helping such organizations by perfecting their methods of doing business.

These farmers' cooperatives are practical socialism. Comrade Harriman's suggestion that the party put itself in a position to support them politically by lining up their beneficiaries behind the party is most timely. It presents a promising way of securing the backing of the rural population and of bringing the rural population to its own. How far Comrade Harriman's amendment will go toward accomplishing this desirable result is problematical. In its present form it seems to open the way for a feud of the theories like those of two decades back. However, it is a certainty that the party locals can benefit their members and extend their political influence by building up cooperative marketing organizations among their members. Beginning with a few staples they can soon become dealers in many. If you do not believe this read "Socialists at Work", by Robert Hunter and inquire of Local Fitchburg (Finnish). Better still, stop off in Fitchburg. Such cooperatives soon reach back to direct dealing with the farmer. He learns the gospel thru his pocket and learned in this way it is not forgotten.—J. A. Rikardo.

## Scholarship Contest News

Name Address Points

M. K. Friedman, Kokomo, Ind....733

B. J. S. Gary, Ind....150

M. Maginsky, New York City....118

R. H. Lane, Aurora, N. C....94

Conrad L. Friberg, Chicago, Ill....72

Mac Garber, Greensburg, Pa....50

L. Van den Bergh, Minneapolis, Minn....36

John C. Knowlton, Mason City, Ia....32

P. E. Tomlinson, Winona, Minn....24

Miss E. W. Holyoke, Mass....20

J. N. Carter, Omaha, Nebr....7

Mrs. C. Schase, Youngstown, Ohio....4

Ida Biestock, Hartford, Conn....2

Robert H. Wilson, Brattleboro, Vt....2

Wm. Heino, Wilkeson, Wash....2

Harold F. D. A. Jackson, Los Angeles, Cal....2

Maurice Levine, St. Paul, Minn....2

Mrs. H. J. Grigsby, Great Falls, Mont....2

Abraham H. Fein, Bronx, N. Y. City, N. Y....2

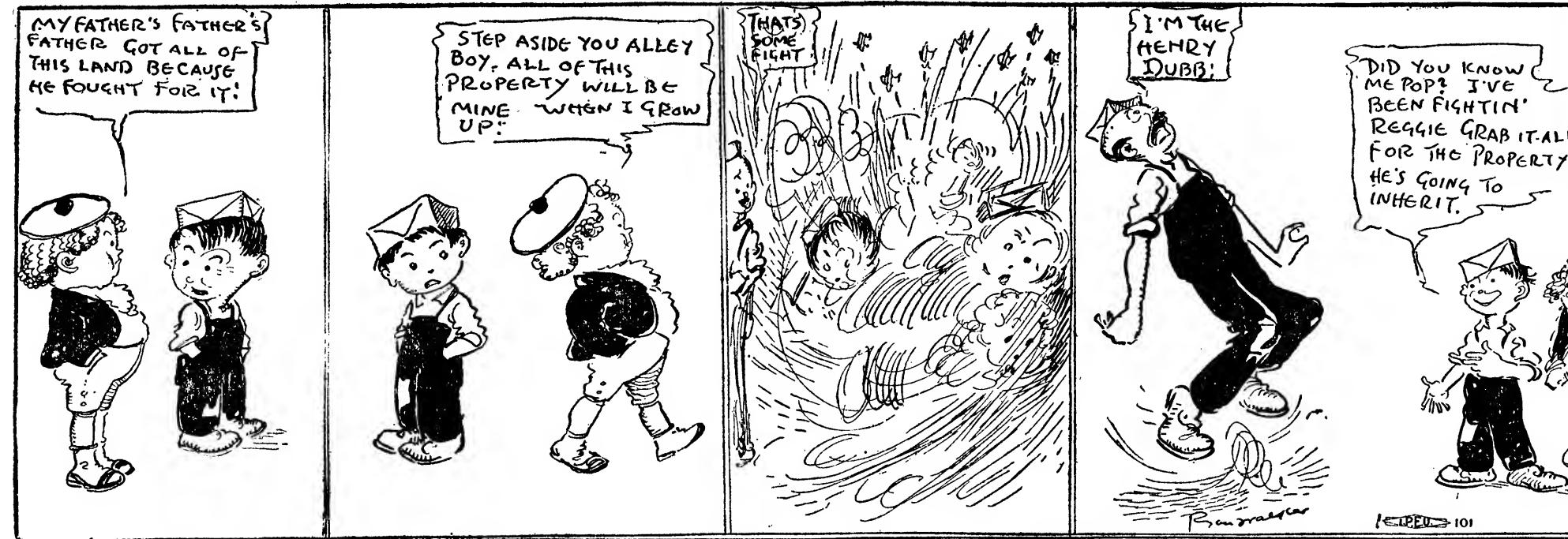
Tony Morello, Youngstown, O....2

J. V. Yingst, Kenosha, Wis....2

Max Cenis, Irwin, Pa....2

Let us see: Wasn't it the gentlemen for whom certain misguided Socialists voted, on the ground that he had "kept us out of war," who took the responsibility of breaking with Germany and thus almost causing the death of millions on his individual say so?

## Junior Fights For An Inheritance



## Convention Information

Here is some information for delegates and visitors to the coming national convention. Cut this out for future reference.

Chicago, Ill., March 20, 1917.  
Dear Comrades:—We have decided to hold the Emergency National Convention in the Banquet Hall of the Planters Hotel, St. Louis. After a week of searching in Chicago, we were unable to find a centrally located hall that was available during the period of our convention. After communicating with comrades in different cities in the middle west, St. Louis was decided upon because of its convenient geographical location and other advantages.

The management of the Planters Hotel has placed the Banquet Hall and the necessary committee rooms at our disposal free of cost, expecting, of course, that we make the hotel our headquarters. The rates are as follows:

Rooms for one person without bath \$1.50 and \$2.00 per day.

Rooms for two persons without bath \$2.50 and \$4.00 per day.

Rooms for one person with bath \$2.00, \$2.50 and 4.00 per day.

Rooms for two persons and bath \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00 per day.

The Planters Hotel is located in the heart of the business section of the city and can be easily reached from the railroad station.

Please give the following directions to your delegates. To reach the meeting place (Planters Hotel) take any car, Manchester, Laclede and Market, running East on Market St. Get off at Broadway and Market, walk one block east to Fourth st. and one block north. The hotel is located opposite the Court house on Fourth st., between Chestnut and Pine sts.

There are a number of cheaper hotels nearby:

The New St. James, Broadway and Walnut St., \$1.00 and up per day.

St. Regis, Fourth and St. Charles Sts., \$1.00 and up per day.

Laclede, 6th and Chestnut Sts., \$1.00 and up per day.

La Salle, Broadway and Chestnut Sts., \$1.00 and up per day.

The Stratford, 8th and Pine Sts., \$1.00 and up per day.

The Majestic, 11th and Chestnut Sts., \$1.50 and up per day.

Be sure to inform your delegates to stay away from the American Hotel or American Annex. The former is located at 7th and Market Sts., and the latter at 6th and Market Sts. They are on the unfair list.

Trusting that the growing seriousness of the present situation will impress upon your state organization the necessity of having a full delegation, I am, with all good wishes,

Fraternally yours,

ADOLPH GERMER

Executive Secretary.

## IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

The successful termination of the stubborn struggle of the four railway brotherhoods for the basic eight-hour day and increased wages marks another long step forward for the whole labor movement on this continent. This is true not so much because 400,000 men secured the shorter workday and wage advances that many other trades already enjoy, but for the reason that virtually a new principle in government has been given added recognition and emphasis in the decision rendered by the United States Supreme Court on the heels of the agreement reached by the railways and the brotherhoods thru the mediation of the representatives of the Court of National Defense. In the published abstracts of the court decision and in a statement by Attorney-General Gregory, in commenting on the ruling, it is held that Congress has the right to legislate to reduce the hours of labor and increase wages. While this power is described as "compulsory arbitration," it is declared that the public interest begets a full right of regulation to the full extent necessary to secure and protect it.

The court adds that in the emergency of threatening destructive suspension of national transportation, Congress acted with its powers in providing a wage standard and other

means necessary to protect the public interests. It also declared that the Adamson act is neither unworkable, confiscatory, experimental nor in excess of Congressional railroad regulatory authority, as was claimed by the attorneys for the railways. Attorney-General Gregory is quoted as saying that "the decision disposes of the large questions immediately involved, and will likely have a bearing on other issues which may develop." It is undoubtedly a fact that other similar issues will develop, now that this important concession has been wrested from the captains of industry and those who control the reins of government. The interpretation that the Adamson act is "compulsory arbitration" does not necessarily detract from the real value of the victory gained or frighten the workers against invoking their political power to make still further progress. Every law is more or less compulsion; it depends wholly on who wields the law and who gains and who must yield to its mandate. The workers, thru their organizations, can compel recognition of their economic power, just as the capitalists have done in years past, and by using their political advantages they are doubly sure of gaining still more improvements. Considered from every standpoint, this decision of the United States Supreme Court was epoch making.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPT.

Organization — Education — Solidarity.

WILLIAM V. KRUSE

Address all communications to:

Socialist Party Young People's Dept.,

803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

## YIPSEL DOINGS.

The Lecture Tour recently conducted by the National Secretary turned out very successfully. Altho tied up by a terrific blizzard in Minnesota the meetings at St. Paul and Minneapolis were quite well attended. At Duluth a crowd of 500 turned out a concert given by the Yipsels. Total amount of \$30.00 for the League. While stopping off for the meeting at Moline, Ill., the National Secretary had an opportunity to address the body of 650 students of the Palmer School of Chicago. The Department of Education, the Chicago Board of Education, and the Yipsels were quite a appreciative audience, there being quite a few Socialists among the students and a lot more who were with us and didn't know it.

George R. Kirkpatrick, the Party's candidate for Vice-President last year, and the possible exception of Gene Debs, is leading platform orators in making several dates for the Yipsels. He is speaking at the Yipsel League meeting at the Palmer School of Chicago. The Department of Education, the Chicago Board of Education, and the Yipsels are quite a appreciative audience, there being quite a few Socialists among the students and a lot more who were with us and didn't know it.

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## King Cotton And Its White Slaves In Georgia

By Ida Crouch-Hazlett.

It was in Columbus, Georgia, where the thunderous roar of the mills shook the air from morning till night. The man talking to me was forty-two years old. He had entered the cotton mills at seven; he had spent thirty-five years in them. He was then getting nine dollars a week, with a sick wife and a daughter of twelve to support. He added three dollars a week to his wages by "spieling" Saturday afternoons, which were half-holidays for an auction sale.

His wages at seven were twenty cents a day. The little beginners were employed as sweepers and dolfers—keeping the floors clean, and taking the empty bobbins. This comrade said when he was so little he had to do. He had certain portions of the great floor-space to sweep, and he was always trying to figure out just what was his work.

## Work Ten-Hour Day.

In these Georgia mills the work-day is ten hours. One operator tends four check looms, or from eight to twenty-four looms.

On this work, producing an average of twelve hundred yards a day, selling from five to fifteen cents a yard, the weavers receive on an average about \$1.50 a day.

Seventy-five per cent of those working in the mills are women. They are married and single, from children of ten up to seventy-five years old. If a child is well-grown his parents lie about his age, and thus evade the law. They are so miserably paid, so often disabled, contract so much sickness from lack of ventilation, superheat, monotonous motions, lack of proper exercise and food, and suffer such enforced periods of idleness that the wages of all who can be rallied to work are necessary to support the toil.

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